

Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group  
FINAL: October Meeting  
10/12/05

Minutes by Dorothy Shoemaker

**Present at meeting:**

**Neighborhood Associations:**

Robin Plance	(b) (6)	St. Johns Neighborhood, CAG Chair
		Administrative committee coordinator
Peter Laughingwolf	(b) (6)	Cathedral Park Neighborhood,
		CAG Treasurer (new)

**Environment:**

Dorothy Shoemaker	<a href="mailto:dorothy.shoemaker@oregon.sierraclub.org">dorothy.shoemaker@oregon.sierraclub.org</a>	Sierra Club, CAG
		Board Secretary
Joe Keating	(b) (6)	Oregon Wildlife Federation
		Education and Outreach coordinator

Rhett Lawrence	<a href="mailto:rhett@ospirg.org">rhett@ospirg.org</a>	OSPIRG
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**Business:**

Steve Gunther	(b) (6)	Progressive Products and Services
Bill Barrett	(b) (6)	Waterfront Org. of Oregon (WOO)

**Health:**

Jane Harris	<a href="mailto:jane@oregon-health.org">jane@oregon-health.org</a>	Oregon Center for Environmental
		Health (OCEH), Evaluation committee coordinator

**At-Large:**

Jim Robison	(b) (6)	Citizen
Jackie Calder	(b) (6)	Citizen

**Recreation:**

Bill Egan	no email, (b) (6)	Oregon Bass and Panfish Club
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**Absent:**

**Neighborhood Associations:**

Jeanne Longley	(b) (6)	Linnton Neighborhood
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**Environment:**

Travis Williams	<a href="mailto:travis@willamette-riverkeeper.org">travis@willamette-riverkeeper.org</a>	Willamette Riverkeeper
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**At Large:**

Bill McCauley	no email, (b) (6)	Citizen
Tom Chisolm	(b) (6)	Citizen

**Others present:**

Barbara Smith	<a href="mailto:Barbara@harrisandsmith.com">Barbara@harrisandsmith.com</a>	Lower Willamette Group
Regina Skarzinskas	(b) (6)	Willamette-Riverkeeper
Kate Toepel	<a href="mailto:Kathryn.toepel@state.or.us">Kathryn.toepel@state.or.us</a>	ODHS – Toxicologist
Mikell O’Mealy	<a href="mailto:omealy.mikell@deq.state.or.us">omealy.mikell@deq.state.or.us</a>	DEQ
Judy Smith	<a href="mailto:smith.judy@epa.gov">smith.judy@epa.gov</a>	EPA
Jim Anderson	<a href="mailto:Anderson.jim@deq.state.or.us">Anderson.jim@deq.state.or.us</a>	DEQ
Chip Humphrey	<a href="mailto:humphrey.chip@epa.gov">humphrey.chip@epa.gov</a>	EPA
Aron Borok	<a href="mailto:aron.borok@eiltld.net">aron.borok@eiltld.net</a>	EI/Tribes
Kate Toepel	<a href="mailto:Kathryn.toepel@state.or.us">Kathryn.toepel@state.or.us</a>	ODHS/SHINE
Sue Safford	<a href="mailto:susan.safford@portofportland.com">susan.safford@portofportland.com</a>	Port of Portland

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**Closed Session**

Meeting brought to order by Robin Plance, Chair of Portland Harbor CAG, at 6:08 PM.  
The CAG meets at the City of Portland Water Lab.

Our next meeting is November 9, 2005, at the Water Lab. We welcome everyone interested in the Portland Harbor cleanup. There will be a closed section until 7:00 PM, at which time observers and the general public are invited.

**New Treasurer Job Description**

Robin Plance brought copies of two paragraphs he wanted added to our bylaws.

MOTION: Article IV as drafted. Jim Robinson moved/Joe Keating seconded.  
Amended slightly for wording. All agreed to the amended motion. The text follows, as amended. We also agreed that the treasurer must meet the qualifications required of the Chair of the CAG.

ARTICLE IV: Positions/Elections

**Section 1. Positions**

**C) Treasurer**

- 1) **Description.** The treasurer is responsible for receiving and disbursing of all funds of the PHCAG. As such, the treasurer is responsible for reporting and retaining in an orderly manner all financial records for the PHCAG including monthly bank statements, monthly treasurer’s reports, quarterly or annual balance sheets or income statements, and all receipts for expenditures. The treasurer is also responsible for supplying financial reports and payment requests that may be needed as requirements of grant awards received by PHCAG.

Upon vacating the position the treasurer must meet with the incoming treasurer to turn over, and review all accounts and records, and prepare a final statement of the PHCAG’s financial status and present it to the membership.

- 2) **Qualifications.** The chairperson shall hold that position for which he/she was elected or appointed for a term of one (1) year or until a successor has been elected or appointed.
  - a) Must be eligible to vote, as per Article II, Section 4.
  - b) Must serve on or take an active role in one (2) or more committees, representative positions, or special events.

#### Elections

Peter Laughingwolf agreed to run as Treasurer in a slate with the existing officers.

MOTION: Appoint Robin Plance as Chair of the CAG, Dorothy Shoemaker as CAG Board Secretary, and Peter Laughingwolf as CAG Treasurer. Moved by Jim Robison, Seconded by Jane Harris. All Agreed.

#### Evaluation Committee

Jane Harris reported that the GASCO cleanup is not going well. She brought copies of data from the GASCO site. Levels of several toxics are highly elevated around the area of the tar body.

Jane will have an Evaluation Committee meeting on October 28, 2005 to discuss the GASCO cleanup.

Jim Robison saw a Willamette Week article about the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The article said that the DEQ has changed a standard for fish kill. The new standard would call water toxic if 25% of fish die instead of any fish dying at all. Rhett confirmed that this change had already been made.

Regina Skarzinskas observed that the Portland Harbor cleanup seems to be going too fast. We've had many short comment periods. She thinks the problems in the early actions are due to the EPA moving too quickly. Steve Gunther disagreed with Regina, saying that we want to avoid "paralysis by analysis".

Steve Gunther wants to know what the Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs) are for the Portland Harbor cleanup. He wondered about the Duwamish Superfund Site RAOs. Robin agreed to put the ROA matter on the January CAG agenda.

Jane Harris recommended the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition website.

Dorothy Shoemaker seemed to be the only one present who read the Joint Source Control Strategy. She thought it was a good document that should be implemented, and wrote short comments to the DEQ saying so.

#### Open Session:

The meeting was opened to observers at 7:00 PM. After introductions and signing-in, we resumed the meeting.

Chip Humphrey of the EPA told us that the GASCO dredging will be done in 5 days from the meeting, around October 17, 2005. They plan to go ahead and finish the work, although he acknowledged that the levels of toxics released have been too high. They've tried better management practices to lower the danger to the fish. PAHs are elevated throughout the GASCO area.

Chip agreed to talk about GASCO at our November meeting.

Steve Gunther asked Chip if the EPA is happy with the lab they are using, as we had heard. He said that the lab the EPA is using has been too slow, and EPA will look for a better lab. The EPA did a search for a lab that would have a 72 hour turnaround, and this lab looked like the fastest, but turnaround has been more like one week.

Steve also asked Chip the name of the contractor for the GASCO tar removal. Chip said Severson was the contractor.

#### Minutes

MOTION: Accept September PHCAG minutes as submitted by Dorothy Shoemaker. Jim Robison moved, Peter Laughingwold seconded, all agreed.

Dorothy will start sending the minutes to the entire CAG membership, not just the administrative committee.

#### Presentation: Human Health Risk Assessment

Regina Skarzinskas, our Technical Advisory Grant expert from Willamette Riverkeeper, gave a presentation on Human Health Risk Assessment. Risk assessment is done assuming that there are people exposed to toxics with risk. The cutoffs are determined by regulatory standards.

HI = hazard index

HI = 1 or higher when the dose is going to have a non-cancer impact

$$HI = \frac{\text{exposure in mg/kg/day}}{\text{Standard in mg/kg/day}}$$

Assumption include the weight and exposure of an average person. They don't look at bioaccumulation. Sometimes old data is used to set regulatory standards.

ECR = Excess Cancer Risk

-6

Cancer risk is set at  $ECR = 1 \times 10$

-3

Background cancer risk:  $1.4 \times 10$

Scientists look at exposure to swimming, for instance, instead of waterskiers and boaters, who are not immersed in the water as much. If the water is OK for swimmers, they reason the water is OK for boaters.

The CAG decided to finish Regina's presentation in pieces, at future meetings.

The new Oregon Department of Health Services (ODHS) toxicologist introduced herself. Her name is Kate Toepel, and she takes Dave Stone's old job.

Kate Toepel said that the ATSDR study is one of several studies of human health risk in the Portland Harbor Superfund site. Kate said that the recent report that Dave Stone and the Oregon DHS wrote does not replace the first report done by ATSDR in 2002. Rather it is more of a follow-up to that first report.